SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman Sir. The Minister was quite right in saying that last year a restriction on purchase by private traders was removed and, therefore, the farmers got a good price. I have had occasion to compliment the Minister on that. This year the question is: why was it that restriction was put on private traders' entry into the market? We have enquired in Punjab and Haryana and found that the extra effort put in by Haryana was in the nature of giving instructions to Divisional Commissioners to ensure that private traders do not enter the market. The second part is: why was a ban put on taking open positions on Futures Market where farmers could have got a much better price? In fact, if that ban had not been put, the price that farmers could have got today...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Put your question. We are running out of time.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: There was only one Order issued by the Government of India. The Order was, if any private trader was going to buy more than 50,000 tonnes, he had only to report—he was not banned—to the local Government agency that he had purchased such and such quantity. There was no other restriction. It is true that the Punjab Government or the Haryana Government has helped the Government of India in procurement. But they never introduced any restriction or put any ban on the farmer. So far as the second issue which has been mentioned here is concerned, in fact, that was the demand made in this very House that we should remove wheat from Futures Market. Government has appointed a committee under the chairmanship of Prof. Abhijit Sen to report whether we should continue the same policy or make any changes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Allocation of wheat under PDS

†*82. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 14.4 million tonne wheat was allocated during the year 2006-07 under PDS and other welfare schemes;

(b) if not, the quantity of the same;

(c) whether it is also a fact that out of this allocated quantity only 10.3 million tonne wheat was lifted,

(d) if not, the facts in this regard;

(e) whether it is also a fact that during the month of June of the current year also, the allocated quantity was not fully lifted; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(f) if so, what was the actual quantity allocated and the total availability of wheat in the Government godowns as on 1st July, 2007?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (d) Details of allocation and offtake of wheat, under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Welfare schemes, for the year 2006-07 are given below:

(In lakh Tonnes)

Period	TPDS		Welfare Schemes	
	Allocation	Offtake	Allocation	Offtake
2006-07	144.19	102.52	15.62	12.69

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. For the month of June, 2007, the provisional allocation and offtake of wheat under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Welfare schemes are as follows:

(In lakh Tonnes)

Period	TPDS		Welfare Schemes	
	Allocation	Offtake	Allocation	Offtake
June, 2007	10.33	8.09	1.64	1.02

The total stocks of wheat in the Central Pool as on 1st July, 2007 were 129.27 lakh Tonnes.

Production and procurement of wheat

†*83. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the total production of wheat and procurement thereof by Government in the country during the year 2007, State-wise and what is the stock available at present;

(b) whether Government propose to import wheat; and

(c) if so, the proposed quantity thereof and the reasons for importing the same?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) As per the 4th advance estimates released on 19.07-.2007, production of wheat in the country is estimated at 74.89 million tonnes during Rabi 2007. The quantity of wheat procured by the Government of India upto 06.08.2007 is 11.10 million tonnes. The State-wise details of production and procurement during Rabi 2007 are given in the Statement *{See* below). The stock of wheat in the country as on 31.07.2007 is 12.02 million tonnes.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.